

Core Element 2: Title of Source

Definition:

Name of the work being cited (in any format: e.g., book, article, DVD, Web site, electronic message, interview, song, etc.). Full title may include subordinate element (subtitle).

Treatment:

Copy the full title (except for capitalization and punctuation) directly from the title page of a book, the first page of a journal article, the title screen or packaging of a DVD, the "About Us" page of a Web site, etc.

Standardize capitalization and punctuation. Capitalize first word and all important words in the title. If the source is self-contained and independent, italicize the title. If the source is part of a larger work (i.e., part of a "container") place the title in quotation marks.

Follow the title of source with a period (*MLA Handbook* 25-29).

Cases	Examples
Title of a book which is "self-contained and independent" (<i>MLA Handbook</i> 25-28)	Wyss, O'Neill. <i>Fundamentals of the Stock Market</i> . McGraw-Hill, 2001. [<i>Italicize</i>]
Title of an article in a magazine or journal (<i>MLA Handbook</i> 27-28)	Barcott, Bruce, and Michael Scherer. "The Great Pot Experiment." <i>Time</i> , 25 May 2015, pp. 38-45. Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." <i>PMLA</i> , vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200. [<i>Place article title in quotation marks and magazine or journal title in italics.</i>]
Title of essay, story or poem in a collection (<i>MLA Handbook</i> 28)	Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Translated by Margaret Sayers Peden. A <i>Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America</i> , edited by Thomas Colchie, Plume, 1992, pp. 83-88. [<i>Place story title in quotation marks and book title in italics.</i>]

<p>Title of an episode in a TV series (MLA Handbook 28)</p>	<p>"Hush." <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i>, created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999. [Place episode title in quotation marks and series title in italics.]</p>
<p>Title of a document on a Web site (MLA Handbook 28)</p>	<p>Harris, Robert. "Evaluating Internet Research Resources." <i>Virtual Salt</i>, 21 Jan. 2015, www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm. Hollmichel, Stefanie. "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." <i>So Many Books</i>, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/. [Place document title in quotation marks and title of Web site in italics.]</p>
<p>Title of a song on an album (MLA Handbook 28)</p>	<p>Beyoncé. "Pretty Hurts." <i>Beyoncé</i>, Parkwood Entertainment, 2013, www.beyonce.com/album/beyonce/?media_view=songs. [Place song title in quotation marks and title of album in italics.]</p>
<p>Title of a book review (MLA Handbook 29)</p>	<p>Truax, Alice. "Anywhere but Here: A Satisfying Novel about Unsatisfactory Lives." Review of <i>Amy and Isabelle</i>, by Elizabeth Strout. <i>New Yorker</i>, 8 Feb. 1999, pp. 79-80. [Review by Alice Truax of a book by Elizabeth Strout]</p>
<p>Untitled book review (MLA Handbook 29)</p>	<p>Mackin, Joseph. Review of <i>The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction</i>, by Alan Jacobs. <i>New York Journal of Books</i>, 2 June 2011, www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/pleasures-reading-age-distraction.</p>
<p>Untitled e-mail message (MLA Handbook 29)</p>	<p>Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997. [Use subject of the e-mail as the title, in quotation marks, and with first word and all important words capitalized.]</p>
<p>Untitled interview [by student]</p>	<p>Reed, Ishmael. Telephone interview. 10 Dec. 2007.</p>
<p>Tweet (MLA Handbook 29)</p>	<p>@persiankiwi. "We have report of large street battles in east & west of Tehran now - #Iralection." <i>Twitter</i>, 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072. [Use full text of the message, without changes, in quotation marks, as the title.]</p>
<p>Untitled physical object (MLA Handbook 29)</p>	<p>Mackintosh, Charles Rennie. <i>Chair of stained oak</i>. 1897-1900, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. [Provide generic description, no italics or quotation marks, only first word capitalized.]</p>

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